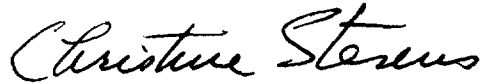


Regretfully, we have already witnessed many times the disaster an oil spill can wreak on a shoreline ecosystem. One need only think of the Exxon Valdez to see how expensive clean-up is, how long it takes, and how tragic its consequences on local land and marine life can be. We believe that the expense of maintaining on-board radio electronics officers is extremely modest when compared to what just one mishap can waste in monetary terms.

Therefore, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation urges the FCC not to follow through with its proposal to expand the radio officer exemption. The potential costs to animal life and the environment are just too great.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Stevens".

Christine Stevens
Secretary